THE CASE

Of the *PEOPLE* commonly Called

QUAKERS,

Relating to OATHES and SWEARING, Humbly Offered.

IT is not unknown to this Nation, that ever ſince we were a People, it hath been our Principle not to Swear, make or take Oathes, which He who is the ſearcher of all Hearts knows, is no other than a Caſe of pure Conſcience, in tender Compliance with the Mind of our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt (as we Apprehend) and of many Eminent Martyrs, and Men of Wiſdom and Renown who Teſtified againſt Oathes and *S*wearing in the Goſpel-Day, and not any Obſtinacy, Diſaffection or Worldly Intereſt whatſoever on our parts; nor to ſhun any Office or *S*ervice due to King or Country that lies in our power to perform: We being really Willing and Deſirous to Anſwer the Juſt and Good Ends of Law and Government, as a peaceable People fearing God, and for this Cauſe of not *S*wearing we have been expoſed to great *Sufferings* and Inconveniences in our Perſons and Eſtates, by tedious Impriſonments, and Diſabled from Receiving our due Debts, or defending our Juſt Titles or Properties; not ſuffered to give Evidence in Courts of Judicature at Common or Civil Law, nor to Anſwer in Chancery or Exchequer, prove Wills or Teſtaments, or take Adminiſtrations, or to proceed in our Trades at Cuſtom-Houſe, or be admitted to our Lands, or Truſted in our Duties and Services in Courts Leet, and Courts Baron, but great Advantage is taken againſt us, becauſe we ſo fear an Oath, as that we Dare not Swear; For which cauſe alſo our Children and Young Men are not Allowed their Freedoms in Cities or Corporations, when they have Faithfully ſerved out their Apprentiſhips. Nor are we ſuffered to ſerve in Civil Offices, when thereunto duly choſen (but often Grievouſly Fined, tho we Refuſe not the Office but only the Oath.) Nor admitted to give our Voices in Elections of Magiſtrates, and Parliament Members in divers Places, tho known to have Right thereunto as Free-holders, *&c.*

WHEREFORE *Our Requeſt is, That in all Caſes where* O A T H E S *are Impoſed, and Swearing Required, Our Word, that is, our* Y E A *and* N A Y *may be accepted inſtead of an* O A T H, *for which we Humbly Offer, and freely ſubmit, that if any under the ſame Profeſſion among us break their Word, or be found falſe in their* Y E A *or* N A Y, *or guilty of Forgery in any Unſworn Teſtimony, Evidence, or Anſwers, That then ſuch Penalty be inflicted on the Perſon ſo Offending, as Law and Juſtice Require in Caſe of Falſe Swearing or Perjury.*

79962